

Social Sciences and History

Description of the Examination

The General Examination in Social Sciences and History covers a wide range of topics. While the exam is based on no specific course, its content is drawn from introductory college courses that cover United States history, Western Civilization, World Civilization, government/political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and geography.

The primary objective of the exam is to give candidates the opportunity to demonstrate that they possess the level of knowledge and understanding expected of college students meeting a distribution or general education requirement in the social science/history area. Many colleges award three or six semester hours (or the equivalent) for a satisfactory CLEP score reflecting the required level of knowledge and understanding. Some may grant specific course credit for a survey course that discusses social science and history topics and that closely matches the exam.

This exam, however, is not intended for use in granting course credit for specific social science or history courses. The CLEP Subject Examinations in Introductory Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics, Introductory Sociology, History of the United States I and II, Western Civilization I and II, and American Government cover more completely the material taught in these courses.

The Social Sciences and History exam includes approximately 125 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Familiarity with terminology, facts, conventions, methodology, concepts, principles, generalizations, and theories
- Ability to understand, interpret, and analyze graphic, pictorial, or written material
- Ability to apply abstractions to particulars, and to apply hypotheses, concepts, theories, or principles to given data

The content of the Social Science and History exam is drawn from the following topics.

Approximate Percent of Examination

History (40%)

17%

[United States history](#)

15%	<u>Western Civilization</u>
8%	<u>World Civilization</u>

Social Sciences (60%)

13%	<u>Government/Political Science</u>
11%	<u>Sociology</u>
10%	<u>Economics</u>
10%	<u>Psychology</u>
10%	<u>Geography</u>
6%	<u>Anthropology</u>

Approximate Percent of Examination History (40%) 17% United States history

Requires a general understanding of historical issues associated with the following periods in United States history: colonial, revolutionary, late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Civil War and Reconstruction, and late nineteenth and twentieth centuries

15% Western Civilization

Requires familiarity with three broad historical periods: ancient, medieval, and modern

8% World Civilization

Requires general knowledge of important historical topics in six broad chronological periods:

Prehistory

Ancient history to 500 B.C.E.

500 B.C.E. to 500 C.E.

500 C.E. to 1500 C.E.

1500 C.E. to 1900 C.E.

The twentieth century in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America

Social Sciences (60%) 13% Government/Political Science, including topics such as

Methods

Constitutional government

Voting and political behavior

International relations

Comparative government

11% Sociology, including topics such as

Methods

Demography

Ecology

Social stratification

Deviance

Social organization
Interaction
Social change

10% Economics, with emphasis on topics such as

Opportunity cost
Comparative advantage
Competitive markets
Monetary and fiscal policy
International trade
Measurement concepts

10% Psychology, including topics such as

Aggression
Socialization
Conformity
Methodology
Group formation
Performance

10% Geography, including topics such as

Weather and climate
Cultural geography
Ecology

6% Anthropology, including topics such as

Cultural anthropology
Physical anthropology
Demography
Family
Methods

Study Resources

To prepare for the Social Sciences and History exam, you should consult several introductory college level textbooks. Visit your local college bookstore to determine which textbooks are used by the college for History, Sociology, Western Civilization, and other related courses. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the "Knowledge and Skills Required" section.

The materials suggested for preparing for other CLEP exams may also be helpful. Study resources for the Subject Examinations in American Government, History of the United States I and II, Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics, Introductory Sociology, and Western Civilization I and II are particularly relevant and can be found in the Study Resources section for these exams. The Internet is another resource you could explore.